

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to Fig. 2, the first end (15) of the first gripping arm (11) has a pair of flanges (31), each having a hole (33) formed therethrough. Because, as stated above, the first end portion (19) of the first gripping arm (11) is narrower than the first end portion (21) of the second gripping arm (13), flanges (31) of the first gripping arm (11) fit within the U-arms (12) of the first end portion (21) of the second gripping arm (13). The first end (15) of the second gripping arm (13) also has a pair of flanges (35), each having a hole (37) formed therethrough. To assemble the device, the first end portion (19) of the first gripping arm (11) is fit within the first end portion (21) of the second gripping arm (13) such that holes (33) and holes (37) are aligned. The first and second gripping arms (11, 13) are thereafter pivotably mounted to each other by rivets (39~~20~~) such that a pivotable connection results between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13). As stated above, it is not crucial that the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) are connected by rivets (20), however it is important that the arms (11, 13) are pivotable and that the opening (17) is formed at the first end (15) of the device (9).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to Fig. 2, the candlewick trimming device (9) further includes a cutting unit (36) which, in the embodiment shown, includes a pair of cutting blades (41) disposed between and oriented transverse to the elongated first and second gripping arms (11, 13). In the particular embodiment shown, the pair of cutting blades (41) are formed on the respective first end portions (~~55~~, 57) of first and second blade arms (43, 45). The first and second blade arms (43, 45) are disposed between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) when the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) are pivotably connected. In such an

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orientation, the first and second blade arms (43, 45) are elongated in the same direction as the first and second gripping arms (11, 13).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Also, although the cutting unit (36) in the particular embodiment shown in Fig. 2 includes separate first and second ~~cutting~~ blades arms (43, 45) and the connection member (47) joined together, it will be recognized by those skilled in the art that the cutting unit (36) may be formed from a single piece of material, or alternatively may be formed of first and second cutting blades shaped and joined together such that they are capable of performing a cutting action.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the first end portions (~~55, 57~~) of the blade arms (43, 45) are slightly bowed outwardly away from each other in a resting condition. As will be described further below, after the first and second blade arms (43, 45) are forced into a trimming action by the first and second gripping arms (11, 13), the resiliency of the bowed blade arms (43, 45) forces the gripping arms back out into an extended position, as shown in Fig. 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Fig. 2, the first end portions (~~55, 57~~) of the first and second blade arms (43, 45) each include a pair of vertically extending wing members (59). In a preferred embodiment, the wing members (59) are cut from the same piece of material as the first and second blade arms (43, 45) and thereafter bent into an upwards direction relative to the respective blade arm (43, 45). However, the wing members (59) may be

formed from separate pieces of material and connected to the blade arms (43, 45) or the connection member (47) in the vertically extending orientation. In a preferred embodiment, the wing members (59) are smoothly sloped towards the cutting blades (41). As will be described further below, the wing members (59) engage the base (14) of the U-shaped first and second gripping arms (11, 13) when the arms (11, 13) are connected together by the rivets (20) at the first end (15). The wing members (59) transfer the pivoting movement from the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) onto the first and second blade arms (43, 45). The smooth slope of the wing members (59) allows the members to be in continuous contact with the base (14) of the respective first and second gripping arms (11, 13) during pivoting action.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, operation of the present embodiment of the candlewick trimming device (9) will be described. As shown in phantom, a candle (67) has a top portion or "fuel portion" (69) from which a candlewick (71) extends. To trim the candlewick (71) at a predetermined height, the first end (15) of the candlewick trimming device (9) is lowered onto the fuel portion (69) of the candle (67) such that the candlewick (71) extends through the opening (17) formed between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13). Referring to Fig. 4, once the first end (15) of the candlewick trimming device (9) is disposed onto the fuel portion (69) of the candle (67), a user manually grips the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) to pivot the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) towards each other about the rivets (3920), as shown by arrows (73). The pivoting movement of the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) is dictated by the length ~~(64)~~ of the slots (63) on the first and second gripping arms (11, 13). In other words, the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) move relatively towards each other up to the point where pin (61) engages the first ends (66) of the slots (63). Simultaneously, the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) push the wing members (59) of the first and

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second blade arms (43, 45) towards each other to force the cutting blades (41) together and trim the candlewick (71). Thus, the amount of pivoting movement of the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) is further dictated by the contact of the cutting blades (41). More specifically, the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) pivot up until the point at which the cutting blades (41) come together and trim the candlewick. The smooth slope of the wing members (59) allows the relative motion between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) and the wing members (59).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--First and second lever bars (79, 81) are rotatably attached on opposite sides of the connection member (77). More specifically, the first and second lever bars (79, 81) are rotatably attached to the connection member (77) by an axle (83) which is disposed through the first and second lever bars (79, 81) and the connection member (77). The respective first end portions (87, 89) of the first and second lever bars (79, 81) are sloped away from the cutting blades (41) allow continuous contact with the base (41) of the first gripping arm (11) during pivoting action, as will be described further below. Rotation of the first and second lever bars (79, 81) in the clockwise direction is prevented by flanges (91) formed on either side of the second blade arm (45).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Fig. 6, similar to the embodiment shown in Figs. 2-4, the construction shown in Fig. 5 is disposed between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13). As with the embodiment shown in Figs. 2-4, the first and second blade arms (43, 45) are connected to the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) by means of pin (61) which is disposed through slots (63) on the arms (12) of the first and second gripping arms (11, 13), as well as through hole (65) in connection member (77). When properly positioned

between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13), the first and second lever bars (79, 81) abut the base (14) of the first and second gripping arms (11, 13).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to Fig. 6, similar to the embodiment shown in Figs. 2-4, the first end (15) of the candlewick trimming device (9) is lowered onto the fuel portion (69) of the candle (67) such that the candlewick (71) extends through the opening (17) formed between the first and second gripping arms (11, 13). Referring to Fig. 7, once the first end (15) of the candlewick trimming device (9) is disposed onto the fuel portion (69) of the candle (67), a user manually grips the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) to pivot the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) towards each other, as shown by arrows (73). The pivoting movement of the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) is dictated by the length of the slots (63) on the first and second gripping arms (11, 13). Simultaneously, the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) cause the first and second lever bars (79, 81) to rotate in a clockwise direction. During rotation, the first end portions (87) of the first and second lever bars (79, 81) engage ledges (91) on the second blade arm (45) and translate the pivoting action of the first and second gripping arms (11, 13) onto the second blade arm (45). Simultaneously, the wing members (59) on the second blade arm (45) engage the base (14) of the ~~second~~first gripping arm (~~13~~11). The combined force of the first and second lever bars (79, 81) on the first blade arm and the base (14) on the wing members (59) cause the first and second blade arms (43, 45) and the cutting blades (41) to come together and trim the candlewick (75).--